Saskatchewan
Education,
Training and
Empioyment

Indian and Métis Education Policy from Kindergarten to Grade 12

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Indian and Métis Education Principles Within Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment's K to 12 Program

Four principles guide the development of education programs for and about Indian and Métis peoples by Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment.

These are:

- Indian and Métis peoples have the opportunity to participate fully in the planning, design and delivery and, where applicable, co-management of the education system at all levels.

- The education system recognizes Indian and Métis students are the children of peoples whose cultures are, in many ways, different from those who established the school system. These differences which may include learning styles, language and world-view, must be reflected in curriculum, programs, teaching methods and climate in the schools attended by Indian and Métis children.

- There is a coordination of efforts to meet the needs of Indian and Métis students in the communities in which they live. There is ongoing consultation and cooperation between and among federal and provincial governments and their agencies, local education and community development authorities.

- Programs to improve the success of Indian and Métis students in school are focused primarily at the school community level.

These four principles form the basis for the policy which guides the day to day operation and long and short term planning of Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment in relation to Indian and Métis education. The principles are also guides to all department divisions in the development and delivery of all programs to school divisions, schools, postsecondary institutions and students in Saskatchewan.

Indian and Métis Education Policy

Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment recognizes that the Indian and Métis peoples of the province are historically unique peoples occupying a unique and rightful place in society. Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment recognizes that education programs must meet the needs of Indian and Métis students, and that changes to existing programs are also necessary for the benefit of all students.

Policy Objectives

- To establish short term and long term goals that will meet the community-based education, social and health needs of all students in educational institutions within the Province of Saskatchewan.

- To provide direction and leadership in the development and implementation of Indian and Métis education programs which meet the needs of urban, rural and northern Indian and Métis students.

- To establish structures, mechanisms and processes to ensure that Indian and Métis peoples become directly involved in the planning, design and, where applicable, co-management of educational programs in the province.

- To ensure that all curricula and materials present Indian and Métis peoples accurately in historical and modern terms and that Indian and Métis oriented materials and concepts are a part of all subject areas.

To meet these objectives, Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will develop, implement and monitor programs and initiatives in ten broad areas:

1. Policy;
2. Indian and Métis participation in the education system;
3. Curriculum and Instructional Resources;
4. Special needs;
5. Teacher and administrator pre-service and in-service;
6. Research and evaluation;
7. Liaison and coordination with other education agencies and services;
8. Student access and retention;
9. Career guidance and transition;
10. Equity;

Policy

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will develop and maintain a policy on Indian and Métis education.

- This policy will be subject to review by Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment at least every five years, and revisions to the policy will be made in consultation with the major organizations and institutions directly concerned. These will include, but not necessarily be limited to:

    - Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (F.S.I.N.)
    - Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS)
    - The Indian and Métis Education Advisory Committee (IMEAC)
    - Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation (STF)
    - Saskatchewan School Trustees Association (SSTA)
    - League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents (LEADS)
    - Post secondary institutions.

- In the development and implementation of policy and programs, the unique needs and realities of Northern Saskatchewan will be taken into account.

- Nothing in the policy or program initiatives of Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment assumes or diminishes in any way the legal and historical obligations that the Government of Canada has to Aboriginal peoples.

Indian and Métis Participation in the Education System

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will work with the boards of education, Indian and Métis organizations and post secondary institutions to provide the means for Indian and Métis peoples to share in the planning, design and, where applicable, co-management of the education system at all levels. Parental involvement is a key aspect.

- The Community Schools program, the Joe Duquette High School and Scott Collegiate school-to-work transition project, Indian and Métis Education Development Program projects, Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP), Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP), Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) and a variety of other projects and programs serve as models for developing participation.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will place Indian and Métis peoples on all appropriate department and Ministerial advisory and policy committees which include representation from outside the department. Nominations will be received from Indian and Métis organizations and/or communities through the Indian and Métis Education Advisory Committee.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment, as part of the Government of Saskatchewan, will continue to follow an affirmative action hiring policy.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will work with the boards of education, teacher training institutions and the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation to support Indian and Métis peoples in becoming professional educators at all levels.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will support and assist school divisions and others in developing Education Equity strategies which will increase the number of Indian and Métis professionals in the education system.

- Programs in Indian and Métis education funded by Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will contain provision to ensure the employment of Indian and Métis peoples.

- Alternate models of education and school governance, developed and implemented by public and separate boards of education, will be provided support and assistance by Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment as demonstration projects or as established alternative methods of delivering education to Indian and Métis peoples, e.g. the Joe Duquette High School.

Curriculum and Instructional Resources

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will, with advice and direction from the Indian and Métis Education Advisory Committee, develop core and other curricula in Indian and Métis education. A ***Five Year Action Plan for Native Curriculum Development*** **(1984)** and subsequent planning documents will provide direction for the development and implementation of these curricula.

- Development work will not be confined to any particular period of time, but be continuous. The Indian and Métis Education Advisory Committee will remain an ongoing committee.

- During each fifth year of its operation, the role, mandate and composition of the Indian and Métis Education Advisory Committee on Indian and Métis education will be reviewed by the committee and the Minister of Education, Training and Employment. Recommendations will be made to improve the effectiveness of the committee.

- The three major curriculum objectives are:

  - The inclusion of Indian and Métis content in all core curricula for all students in the province.

  - The development and implementation of programs for and about Indian and Métis students, for example: Native Studies and Indian Languages programs.

  - The development, identification and coordinated distribution of instructional resources and locally produced materials for core and other curricula.

- All curriculum and instructional resources development undertaken by Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment, will include appropriate and sufficient Indian and Métis content.

- Recommended instructional resources shall be evaluated for stereotyping, bias, racism and other inaccuracies.

- A ***Five Year Action Plan for Native Curriculum Development*** **(1984)** and its successors such as the ***Indian and Métis Education Action Plan*** **(March, 1995)** shall be regarded a mandate of all divisions within Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment.

- The "Principles and Guidelines for Indian and Métis Curriculum Development" (Appendix B) have been adopted and are in effect within Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment. The department will ensure that other curriculum developers become aware of, and adhere to, the Principles and Guidelines.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will cooperate with Indian and Métis organizations and individuals in the development of curricula and materials.

- The Indian and Métis Education Advisory Committee shall be represented on all curriculum advisory committees established by the department. The committee will nominate representatives through the Indian and Métis Education Unit.

- The Indian and Métis Education Unit has the lead role in developing Indian and Métis curriculum and support materials, and will maintain the Indian and Métis Curriculum Development Team for that purpose.

- The committee serves as an external validation group for instructional resources and curriculum developed by the Indian and Métis Education Unit.

Special Needs

- Projects in programming and materials development will be undertaken by Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment to meet the needs of Indian and Métis students. These projects include, but are not limited to the following:

    - alternative education programs (for example, the Joe Duquette High School);
    - home - school liaison programs;
    - tutorial programs;
    - English as a Second Language/Dialect programs;
    - student retention programs;
    - distance education;
    - special education.

- In most circumstances, programs and projects will be funded on a pilot basis in cooperation with school divisions and Indian and Métis organizations with the understanding that, if successful, other funding mechanisms will be found through the regular grants procedures to provide for program continuance.

- Indian and Métis peoples and organizations shall be invited to participate in the development and implementation of these programs. In accordance with equity employment policies and programs of school divisions, people of Indian and Métis ancestry should be given preference in hiring for positions created by these programs and with the approval of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

Teacher and Administrator Pre-service and In-service

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment recommends cross-cultural training as an integral part of the preservice training for all teachers in Saskatchewan. The preferred option would be to include cross-cultural components in the existing courses required by the Universities. Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will encourage and assist the colleges of education with the development of such components and their introduction into required and elective classes. It is strongly recommended that training in English as a Second Language/Dialect be provided in language arts courses.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment strongly recommends the availability of courses about Indian and Métis peoples for teachers-in-training in order to provide them with an accurate knowledge of the history and cultures of Aboriginal peoples in historical and contemporary contexts.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment supports the availability of Indian Languages courses for teachers-in-training.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will continue support for SUNTEP and NORTEP, and will continue to cooperate with other Indian and Métis teacher education programs. Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment encourages among all Indian and Métis education institutions an active inter-relationship which will enhance understanding and will lead to further cooperation.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will develop inservice sessions on Indian and Métis education, particularly in the areas of:

    - Indian and Métis awareness;

- cross-cultural education;
- materials evaluation;
- instructional methods of teaching Indian and Métis children and for teaching about Indian, Métis and Inuit peoples;
- change management;
- developing Indian and Métis participation in the education system.

- Indian and Métis education in-service sessions developed by Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will be delivered by practicing teachers and education professionals trained by the department. The Regional Coordinators of Curriculum and Instruction will be involved in the training and delivery processes. School divisions are expected to provide time for at least the awareness sessions.

- In-service modules in support of new curriculum and other initiatives developed by Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will include appropriate Indian and Métis education components.

- To improve public understanding of Aboriginal peoples, Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment, in consultation and cooperation with Indian and Métis organizations, the SSTA, the STF, LEADS, the SIFC and the Universities will develop informational/instructional communication strategies for media broadcast, teacher and trustee seminars, and public meetings.

Research and Evaluation

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will undertake, initiate or contract for research projects and studies that provide necessary data for the development and implementation of Indian and Métis education programs.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will keep up to date on the research that is being carried out by other agencies in the province and elsewhere.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will evaluate the progress of its programs and initiatives in conjunction with cooperating agencies. This evaluation may include:

  - formal evaluations by contracted agencies or experts;
  - informal evaluations by department personnel;
  - a continuous evaluation system built into a program or project;
  - formal internal evaluations by department personnel.

Liaison and Coordination

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment, through the Indian and Métis Education Unit, will maintain liaison and cooperate with organizations and institutions involved in Indian and Métis education.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will continue to cooperate with First Nations education and other agencies.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will maintain contact with the other Territorial and Provincial education ministries in order to share developments in Indian and Métis education.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment will, from time to time, pilot and field test curriculum and materials through First Nations schools under the following conditions:

  - First Nations schools agree to participate in a field test or pilot;
  - the First Nations education authority agrees to pay costs associated with the in-service or training necessary for teachers or others who will participate;

- any other costs assumed by school divisions also piloting or field-testing the curriculum or materials will be assumed by the First Nations education authority or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, as appropriate.

- The present method of registering students at the secondary level enrolled in First Nations schools will continue until a review of registration policy can take place.

- Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment may from time to time, provide materials such as curriculum guides and support materials to First Nations schools, but the usual procedure will be for First Nations schools to purchase such materials through the Saskatchewan Book Bureau.

- The Indian and Métis Education Unit will establish mechanisms for informing the general public and the education community about the developments in Indian and Métis education.

- First Nations Education Directors and Tribal Council Education Directors will receive all information items sent by Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment in the provincial system.

Administration of Programs

- The Indian and Métis Education Unit carries the primary responsibility for developing, implementing and monitoring Indian and Métis - specific programs for Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment and for the development and revision of Indian and Métis education policy.

- The Indian and Métis Education Unit will maintain close contact with other units, divisions and regional offices within the department and coordinate Indian and Métis education initiatives.

- Indian and Métis peoples will be represented on all appropriate advisory committees, task forces, etc. established by the department and Minister. The Indian and Métis Education Unit, often through the Indian and Métis Education Advisory Committee, may nominate candidates.

- The Indian and Métis Education Unit will maintain contact with Indian and Métis education organizations directly and through the Indian and Métis Education Advisory Committee. Contact with school divisions and the universities will also be maintained.

- The Indian and Métis Education Unit will also maintain contact with and work with First Nations education authorities and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, as appropriate.

- The Indian and Métis Education Unit will collaborate with First Nations Education Authorities on curriculum initiatives designed to meet mutual education goals. Collaboration may occur in instances where:

  - student choice and student mobility is accommodated
  - appropriate mechanisms and resources are available
  - implementation of the Core Curriculum is further supported
  - the department is involved in the planning stages of the initiative.

- The Indian and Métis Education Unit will maintain contact and cooperate with the Indian and Métis Affairs Secretariat, Government of Saskatchewan.

Appendix A: The Action Plan

Indian and Métis Education Action Plan **(March, 1995)** is available upon request from:

Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment
Book Bureau
1500 - 4th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4R 8G8
Phone: 787-5987

Appendix B
Principles and Guidelines for Indian and Métis Curriculum Development

Improvements to the education of Indian and Métis students are dependent upon changes in the processes of development (evaluation, design, implementation and maintenance), the instructional approaches taken, and the presentation and representation of curricula and materials. The following principles and guidelines outline the direction that these changes should take to benefit all Saskatchewan students:

Involvement of Indian and Métis Peoples

Indian and Métis peoples will be involved in educational planning and curriculum development.

- Indian and Métis peoples will be recognized as partners in the curriculum development process through representation on curriculum committees, task forces, reference committees, project teams and other committees of the department.
- As partners, Indian and Métis peoples will participate in the decision-making process as well as in an advisory capacity.
- The knowledge within Indian and Métis communities and institutions will be utilized in the development of Indian and Métis content.

Suitability of Instructional Approaches

The dignity of students, both individually and collectively will be respected by utilizing instructional approaches which are sensitive to Indian and Métis cultural values.

- Indian and Métis perspectives will be a factor in determining instructional approaches.
- The diverse cultural experiences of Indian and Métis students will be a basis for determining instructional approaches.
- A variety of instructional approaches will be used to accommodate a variety of learning styles.
- Teacher education will be structured to include skills and knowledge necessary to teach Indian and Métis students.

Adequacy of Curriculum

Indian, Métis and Inuit peoples will be represented in the Core Curriculum and elective courses at all grade levels. They will be presented fairly and accurately in all curricula and materials approved and developed by Saskatchewan Education, Training and Employment. Courses and programs will be developed to meet the specific needs and interests of Indian and Métis students.

- Curricula and materials will concentrate on positive images of Indian, Métis, and Inuit peoples.
- Curricula and materials will reinforce and complement the beliefs and values of Indian, Métis, and Inuit peoples.
- Curricula and materials will include historical and contemporary issues.
- A strong curriculum emphasis will be given to Indian/Métis Studies, Indian languages, and English language development.
- Curricula and materials will reflect the legal, cultural, historical, political, social, economic and regional diversity of Indian, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

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The term First Nations is utilized whenever the context implies First Nation's school governance. The terms Indian and Métis are intended to retain consistency with legislation and government usage in the provincial system.